taken by Government to stop this mismanagement;

(c) whether even the information about reservation position of all the trains to various places is also not available; and

(d) if so, whether the Government will introudce any computerised system in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Some instances of blackmarketing of railway passenger tickets by touts and other anti-social elements have come to notice. Rgular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force (RPF)/Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel to check the activities of touts and other anti-social elements in and around the reservation offices. Persons detected indulging in the above activities are dealt with under the provisions of the Railway Act, 1989.

(c) and (d) Arrangements for giving information about reservation of berths/seats on the trains exist. These include display of availability position on boards in the reservation offices, giving information manually and in the newspapers. At major stations, Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) has also been installed for indicating the reservation position telephonically. In addition, charts are displayed at the platforms for the convenience of passengers. The IVRS facility is also to be extended to other major stations gradually.

Gauge conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj railway line

2114. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a provision of Rs. 42 crores was made in the railway budget for 1996-97 for the conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj railway line;

(b) whether the former Railway Minister had promised for the completion of this line by the end of 31st December, 1998; and

(c) if so, the progress made in regard to the conversion of this railway line so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. An outlay of Rs. 11.00 crores was allotted in 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. However, there has been some delay due to constraint of resources.

Earthwork and Bridges are in progress and will be completed by March 1999. The work is now planned to be coompleted by Dec. 1999 subject to availability of resources.

Double Decker Coaches on the Major Routes of Indian Railways

2115. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have coonsidered for introducing double-decker coaches on the major routes of Indian Railways to meet the ever increasing passenger traffic;

(b) whether double-decker coaches are not considerably cheaper than laying additional lines; and

(c) if so, whether Government will think of taking advantage of the experience of other advanced countries in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Double decker coaches have been used in limited numbers on some Railways but due to dust nuisance etc., such coaches have not proved popular.

मध्य प्रदेश में मीटर गेज रेल लाइनों का आमान परिवर्तन

2116. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:**

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा:

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में उन मीटर गेज रेल लाइनों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिन्हें बड़ी लाइनों में बदला गया और उन पर कुल कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि नब्बे के दशक के दौरान छोटी रेल लाइन को बड़ी रेल लाइन में बदलने की योजना को व्यापक रूप से क्रियान्वित किया गया था?

रेल मंत्रालय, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) एक विवरण संलग्न है। (नीचे देखिए)

(ख) जी हां। भारतीय रेल ने 1.4.1992 से 7800 किमी मीटर/छोटी लाइनों को बड़ी लाइनों में परिवर्तित कर दिया है।